



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

January 16, 2007

Environmental Section

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

TEXAS CITY CHANNEL DEEPENING PROJECT
GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

DRAFT GENERAL REEVALUATION REPORT
AND
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Galveston District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed a Draft General Reevaluation Report (GRR) and Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Texas City Channel Deepening Project. The Texas City Channel is a Federal deep-draft navigation project serving the Port of Texas City in Galveston County, Texas. It consists of a main channel connecting a turning basin at the port to the Gulf of Mexico through Bolivar roads, a part of the Houston Ship Channel.

In April 2003 the City of Texas City (also the non-Federal Sponsor for the Federal Channel Deepening Project) received a Department of Army permit to construct a six-berth marine container terminal including wharves, berthing areas, turning basin, and the deepening of the Texas City Channel to -45 feet MLT from the northern end of the turning basin to the intersection of the Texas City Channel and the Houston Ship Channel. During the development of the Shoal Point Container Terminal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), a 50-year Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) was developed.

The recommended Federal project and the channel deepening portion of the permit for the container terminal are very similar. Both projects would deepen the channel from the current depth of 40 feet to 45 feet. No channel widening is expected, other than the incidental widening recommended for the Federal project for bend easing purposes. The primary difference between the permitted plan and the recommended Federal project is that the Federal project plan includes the deepening of the existing turning basin, while the permitted plan would dredge a new turning basin within the channel directly adjacent to the berthing areas. In addition, the Federal project would place two rock groins on the north side of the Texas City Dike (located on the northern side of the channel) to help slow sedimentation of material back into the main channel.

The DMMP that was developed for the EIS will accommodate dredged material not only from the berthing areas for the container terminal but also material from the deepening of the channel and future maintenance material from the channel, including the existing turning basin. The DMMP includes an environmental opportunity through the utilization of dredged material beneficially. Approximately 1,000 acres of emergent marsh would be created adjacent to the project.


During the reevaluation of the Federal project it was determined that the EIS developed for the container terminal permit contained applicable environmental material that related to the current recommended plan. The related information is incorporated into the GRR by reference. In addition, since the DMMP developed for the permit satisfies Federal project requirements, it was adopted for the current Federal project plan with minor modifications.

Copies of the draft GRR and EA and the Shoal Point Container Terminal EIS can be downloaded from the US Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District website at <http://www.swg.usace.army.mil/>, or a copy of the draft GRR and EA is available for review at the following public libraries:

Evelyn Meador Branch Library 2400 Meyer Road Seabrook, Texas	La Porte Public Library 526 San Jacinto St. La Porte, Texas	League City Library 100 West Walker St. League City, Texas
Sterling Municipal Library 1 Mary Wilbanks Ave. Baytown, Texas	Pasadena Public Library 4330 Fairmont Parkway Pasadena, Texas	La Marque City Library 1011 Bayou Road La Marque, Texas
Rosenberg Library 2310 Sealy St. Galveston, Texas	Moore Memorial Library 1701 9 th Ave. North Texas City, Texas	Library Association 4324 HWY 3 Dickinson, Texas
Deer Park Library 3009 Center St. Deer Park, Texas		

A copy of the Texas City Channel Draft GRR and Supplemental EA, as well as a CD copy of the Shoal Point Container Terminal Environmental Impact Statement are available upon request. Requests and comments should be submitted to, Ms. Carolyn Murphy, Chief, Environmental Section (PE-PR), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2000 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas 77553 (carolyn.e.murphy@swg02.usace.army.mil). Comments should be submitted by February 16, 2007.

Sincerely,


Richard Medina
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch